



No Child Left Behind Improving Tennessee Graduation Rates

- Every Tennessee school district is now required to have a detailed action plan for how they plan to increase graduation rates. Each school system must submit a Tennessee Comprehensive Systemwide Planning Process for state approval.
- Tennessee uses federal dollars to operate Gateway Institutes to strengthen the content knowledge and intervention and dropout prevention strategies of middle and high school teachers. Tennessee students must pass Gateway exams in biology I, English II and Algebra I to graduate.
- High schools in Tennessee are participating in varied national models to update and strengthen the high school curriculum. Two examples include the Southern Regional Education Board's High Schools That Work program and the high school redesign model of William Daggett's Successful Practices Network.
- Tennessee is using a GEAR UP grant to provide targeted academic intervention and enhancement programs for students at high-poverty middle and high schools.
- The Algebra I Princeton Review program allows high school teachers to use practice tests to identify areas where students need remediation before they risk failing a course or dropping out.
- E4TN uses online learning to give high school students access to high-level classes that may not be available in their school or district. Several districts are working to develop and pilot online courses and train teachers to administer them.
- Both the state's High Schools Summit and Urban Summit seek to guide school improvement plans to use proven strategies that improve student achievement. These summits have the added benefit of focusing on what works best with a particular target population. Urban schools are further supported by the Office of Urban Education Improvement and Urban Education Specialist Gwen Watson.
- Tennessee's P-16 Council is working to align the math curriculum to ensure students are on track to acquire the skills they need to graduate and succeed beyond high school. The group is mapping the skills students should have upon graduation and working backwards all the way to the foundations built in pre-K.
- In conjunction with Tennessee's focus on closing the achievement gap for students with disabilities is emphasis on ensuring these students have access to the same

coursework as their peers and ample preparation for the Gateway exams required for graduation.

- Tennessee Career-Technical Education division has signed 41 articulation agreements that will allow high school students to receive dual credit (high school and college credit) allowing students to get a head start on college requirements.